

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01

VO-03 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /110 W

----- 015650

R 271332Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8422

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AU

SUBJECT: RAV TOV APPLICATION

REFS: (A) VIENNA 3030; (B) STATE 87509

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CHANCELLORY OFFICIAL STATES CHANCELLOR KREISKY PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO RAV TOV DESIRE TO HELP RESETTLE HOMELESS RUSSIAN JEWISH FAMILIES, AND GOA WILL PROBABLY GRANT RAV TOV CHARTER FOR THAT PURPOSE. OFFICIAL SAID AUSTRIA FACES MOUNTING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM WITH GROWING COLONY OF "RE-EMIGRANTS" FROM ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE WHICH SOVIET UNION REFUSES TO ALLOW RETURN TO USSR, WHICH AUSTRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY UNTIL RECENTLY HAD IGNORED, AND FOR WHICH ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS DO NOTHING. HE SAID CHANCELLOR HOPED RAV TOV COULD HELP SOLVE PROBLEM OF THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE BUT, CONTRARY TO IMPLICATION IN MARCH 1 LETTER FROM RABBI FRANKEL, CHANCELLOR WOULD NOT ACT AS RAV TOV SPOKESMAN OR SPONSOR VIS-A-VIS OTHER GOVERNMENTS. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT MAY 4 WITH RAV TOV OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

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2. DR. NIKOLAUS SCHERK, OFFICIAL IN CHANCELLOR'S CABINET RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS CONCERNING SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES TRANSITING AUSTRIA, TOLD APOLCOUNS APRIL 22 THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY RECEIVED RABBI HERTZ FRANKEL AND OTHER RAV TOV OFFICIAL FEBRUARY 19. SCHERK, WHO SAT IN, SAID DISCUSSIONS COVERED PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RAV TOV APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION AS LEGAL ASSOCIATION (VEREIN) IN AUSTRIA, AND PAST ACTIVITIES OF RAV TOV IN SETTLING RUSSIAN JEWISH FAMILIES IN EUROPE.

3. SCHERK SAID KREISKY WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RAV TOV ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF MOUNTING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM AUSTRIA IS ENCOUNTERING WITH GROWING COLONY OF "RE-EMIGRANTS" WHO RETURNED TO AUSTRIA FROM ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE BECAUSE OF DISSATISFACTION OR INABILITY TO COPE WITH NEW SITUATIONS AND WERE NOW TRYING TO RETURN TO SOVIET UNION. HE SAID SOME OF THESE PEOPLE WERE EASILY ABSORBED INTO AUSTRIAN LIFE BUT MOST WERE ELDERLY, PHYSICALLY INFIRM OR EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE, UNABLE TO WORK OR LACKING MARKETABLE SKILLS. SCHERK SAID WHILE SUCH CASES WERE INEVITABLE PHENOMENON OF EMIGRATION THAT JEWISH GROUPS IN WEST WERE PROMOTING, AUSTRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY UNTIL RECENTLY HAD COMPLETELY IGNORED PLIGHT OF UNFORTUNATE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED AND ESTABLISHED JEWISH RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS, OCCUPIED WITH ASSISTING NEW EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL OR ELSEWHERE, ALSO DID NOTHING FOR THEM EXCEPT, IN FEW INSTANCES, TO FACILITATE THEIR RETURN TO ISRAEL. SCHERK SAID KREISKY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE "FINE AND VERY USEFUL" IF RAV TOV COULD HELP WITH CARE AND EVENTUAL RESETTLEMENT OF "RE-EMIGRANTS" NOW IN AUSTRIA. KREISKY ADVISED THEM OF CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES IN PREVIOUS RAV TOV APPLICATION FOR STATUS AS "VEREIN", OR LEGAL ASSOCIATION, AND SUGGESTED THEY REAPPLY AS CHARTER WAS NECESSARY IF THEY WERE TO CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITY IN AUSTRIA. SCHERK ASSUMED CHARTER WOULD BE GRANTED.

4. SCHERK SAID ALMOST ALL "RE-EMIGRANTS" WANTED TO RETURN TO SOVIET UNION AND CONSIDERED THEMSELVES

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R 271339Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8423
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
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RUSSIANS, NOT ISRAELIS; HOWEVER, SINCE SOVIET UNION
WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEM BACK, ONLY BY TEACHING THEM
ANOTHER LANGUAGE, BY HELPING THEM WITH THEIR IMMEDIATE
PERSONAL PROBLEMS, AND BY INTEGRATING THEM SOMEWHERE
WITHIN SYMPATHETIC COMMUNITY COULD THEY EVER RESUME
USEFUL AND SATISFYING LIVES. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE
SAID, VIENNA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY (EVIDENTLY AT
CHANCELLOR'S URGING) RECENTLY BEGAN HOLDING LANGUAGE
CLASSES AND COUNSELING SESSIONS ON THREE-DAY-A-WEEK
BASIS. MEANWHILE, SCHERK NOTED, GOA HAD PROBLEM OF
PROVIDING HOUSING, NORMAL SOCIAL SERVICES, AND
EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT "RE-EMIGRANTS"
REQUIRED.

5. SCHERK SAID RABBI FRANKEL DESCRIBED ASSISTANCE
RAV TOV HAD ALREADY PROVIDED IN RESETTLEMENT OF SEVERAL
HUNDRED SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES AND GAVE LIST OF NAMES
OF PERSONS RAV TOV HAD HELPED. IN RESPONSE TO
EMBOFF'S COMMENT THAT IT WAS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF
ASSITANCE PROVIDED BY RAV TOV THAT SEEMED MOST
DIFFICULT TO VERIFY, AND THAT RAV TOV OFFICES AND
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REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA HAD BEEN EQUALY DIFFICULT
TO LOCATE, SCHERK VOLUNTEERED NAMES OF RAV TOV
PERSONNEL LISTED IN STATE 87509, SAID THEY WERE MEMBERS
OF ORTHODOX GROUP, AND CLAIMED ALL WERE KNOWN TO
AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS
POSSIBLE THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT WIDELY KNOWN IN VIENNA
JEWISH COMMUNITY OR TO PERSONNEL IN ESTABLISHED JEWISH
RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS, HE HAD IMPRESSION ESTABLISHED
ORGANIZATIONS WERE SIMPLY TRYING TO FREEZE ORTHODOX
GROUPS OUT OF REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY. HE

COMMENTED THAT WHILE THIS REFLECTED, AT LEAST IN PART, DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES IN WHICH GOA WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED, GOA STILL HAD REAL PROBLEM WITH WHICH IT HAD TO DEAL AS BEST IT COULD.

6. COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS INTERVIEWED RAV TOV VIENNA DIRECTOR, ISAK STRULOWIZ, APRIL 20. STRULOWIZ, WHO WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE LITTLE CONCRETE INFORMATION ABOUT RAV TOV ACTIVITIES, SUGGESTED FURTHER INTERVIEW WITH MRS. KORNICEK, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS SECRETARY OF RAV TOV VIENNA OFFICE AND THUS BETTER ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION EMBASSY SOUGHT. KORNICEK WAS TO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY COUNSELOR ON APRIL 28; HOWEVER, SHE LATER REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT TO MAY 4 SINCE RABBI WIEDER WOULD ARRIVE FROM BELGIUM ON MAY 3 AND WOULD ACCOMPANY HER. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER FOLLOWING MAY 4 MEETING.BUCHANAN

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